

### **Amendments to the Claims**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A paint roller frame comprising a shaft having a handle portion fixedly secured to a handle and a roller cage assembly mounted on the opposite end of said shaft for supporting a paint roller sleeve thereon, wherein:

- said roller cage assembly is generally perpendicular to said shaft's handle portion;
- said roller cage assembly comprises a bearing portion and an outer portion which is removable to permit replacement of the roller sleeve;
- said bearing portion is mounted on said shaft that is passing through an opening in the bearing portion;
- said bearing portion has a supporting surface to support the paint roller sleeve and an annular (inner) face against which an adjacent (inner) end surface of the roller sleeve core can be urged to prevent the paint roller sleeve from axial sliding and to inhibit paint flow into the interior of the core;
- said outer portion having a supporting surface to support the paint roller sleeve and an annular (outer) face against which an adjacent (outer) end surface of the roller sleeve core can be urged to prevent the paint roller sleeve from axial sliding and to inhibit paint flow into the core interior;
- said bearing portion and said outer portion further comprising mating connection means and, for painting, directly and firmly connected by screwing using these mating connection means having characteristics that ensure fast and tight trapping of the core and that prevent weakening of the sleeve squeezing while painting.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A paint roller frame with a conventional U-shaped shaft also comprising a hook that is located near the end of the shaft's handle portion that is close to the paint roller sleeve; ~~the new~~ such a position ~~location~~ of the hook allows the roller frame to be mounted higher on a grid (a paint rack) fastened in a paint bucket; such location of the hook that is located this way keeps the roller sleeve resting above the paint in the highest possible position to let more paint be pored in the paint bucket without the paint roller sleeve soaking the paint.

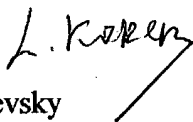
Claim 9 (currently amended): A plastic sheathing for the portion of the metallic shaft of the paint roller frame adjacent to the paint roller cage assembly to eliminate dark marks on walls as a result of occasional touching walls by said portion of the shaft during painting.

Claim 10 (withdrawn)

Claim 8 was rephrased to better explain that there is an important structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art. The claim describes the paint roller frame shaft comprising the hook located 'near the end of the shaft's handle portion that is close to the paint roller sleeve'. Such an innovative location of the hook results in a structurally new design. In the prior art, the hook (if present) was always either formed by the handle, or located on the shaft next to the handle.

Claim 9 (after the amendment) is describing 'a plastic sheathing for the portion of the *metallic* shaft' and, consequently, combines two different materials with plastic used for covering only. This claim cannot be anticipated by Jang (USPN 5497527) where the first segment of the handle (the shaft) is 'a metallic rod or plastic tube' and therefore is made of either metal, or plastic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Korenevsky', with a long diagonal stroke extending from the bottom right of the signature.

Lev Korenevsky  
04/10/2004